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FRONT COVER: Rez Boys Drum Group, Cree Nation, Dine Nation, and Cherokee Nation

BACK COVER: Northern Arapaho Nation, Cheyenne Nation, Cherokee Nation, Seminole Nation, Lumbee Nation, and Tuscarora Nation

All cover photos were taken by Michelle Humphrey, EPA 2003 Summer Intern, at the first "Common Ground" pow wow held in La Plata, Maryland, August 1, 2003. Michelle is a senior at Pennsylvania State University and studies Political Science.

The "Common Ground" festival in American Indian parlance is a pow wow where Tribal affiliation gives way to ethnic relationships shared by all American Indians. The pow wow was sponsored by the Maryland Indian Tourism Association in conjunction with the State of Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. The pow wow also was made possible through the efforts of many, but special acknowledgment goes to the pow wow Chairman Rico Newman, Piscataway

"The drum represents the heartbeat of the People and Mother Earth. Without the heartbeat of the drum there is no pow wow. The drum sets the rhythm of the dance and the tempo of the song. The Indian drum has two beats—the single beat represents Mother Earth, and the double beat stands for humans."

Manataka American Indian Council

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OPPTS Tribal News requests interesting, relevant stories about pesticide and pollution prevention programs and projects in Indian country from our readers. If you want to share your experience with our readers, please write or send an e-mail to Karen Rudek (pesticides), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7506C), Washington, DC 20460, rudek.karen@epa.gov, or Mary Lauterbach (pollution prevention), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7408M), Washington, DC 20460, lauterbach.mary@epa.gov.

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OPPTS Tribal News can be viewed on the Internet at www.epa.gov/opptintr/Tribal

OPPTS Tribal News, Volume 4,
Number 3, EPA 745-N-00-001

From the OPPT Editor...

EPA is very pleased to present this special "Pilot" issue of the OPPTS Tribal News. This pilot issue has allowed OPPTS to invite various EPA media programs and offices to share with us valuable information regarding their programs and activities, along with Tribal information and perspectives regarding a vast array of environmental concerns and issues that may have great interest to Indian country.

Many at EPA have heard from Tribes that improving our ways of communication would be greatly beneficial to EPA and Tribal partnerships. It is fairly well known that Tribal environmental programs and office staff are often overwhelmed with information from numerous and varied sources. Tribes have expressed the great difficulties for their limited Tribal staff to sort through and select pertinent information in a timely fashion. Many Tribes do not have the size or infrastructure to deal with the many diverse office and media programs sources of information. Tribal representatives have continued to advise EPA that Tribes tend to

relate to the environment differently as they view the world in a holistic fashion, and would prefer the Agency decrease its use of administrating Tribal environmental protection programs through its traditional "stove piping" approaches, such as air and water. Since many Tribes view all things as being inter-related, it may be better to learn about the environment holistically.

This pilot issue attempts to provide Tribes with one media source that presents environmental-related information from all EPA media offices, Regions, and various Tribal members. We also hope that our readers find this pilot issue informative and useful in understanding the many EPA and Tribal environmental protection programs, and prevalent concerns. We thank all EPA and Tribal contributors. Their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in this pilot issue is commendable, encouraging, and greatly appreciated.

—Mary Lauterbach, OPPT Editor

The Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances is pleased to include the comments and opinions of contributors. Byline articles and interviews represent the opinions and views of contributors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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For more information, contact OPPT Environmental Assistance Division at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7408M), Washington, DC, 20460.

OPPTS Tribal News Mission Statement

OPPTS Tribal News seeks to provide an opportunity to promote a two-way dialogue with EPA and American Indian Tribes, including Alaskan Native Villagers, regarding a vast array of environmental issues and concerns that affect Indian Country. The mission and hope of the publication is to maintain an open, constructive exchange of information between the federal government, Tribal governments, and Tribal organizations. Together, we can build mutual understandings and forge effective partnerships to achieve our common goals of protecting the water, air, land, and communities, now and in order that the circle will continue on for generations to come.

—OPPTS Tribal News Staff

New EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt's Collaborative Approach on Major Environmental Issues and Concerns

On November 6, 2003 former Utah Governor Mike Leavitt was sworn in as the 10th Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Leavitt pledged to seek collaboration in the application of a “balanced set of environmental principles” to protect the nation’s environment.

Prior to leading the Agency, Leavitt served as Utah’s 14th governor and was a national leader on homeland security, welfare reform, and environmental management. As a pioneer of collaborative environmental management, Leavitt helped clean the air over the Grand Canyon as he served as Vice-Chair of the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission and Co-Chair of the Western Regional Air Partnership. These efforts resulted in recommendations to improve visibility on the Colorado Plateau and regulatory

commitments and strategies to reduce sulfur dioxide levels in 13 states. Tribes were an important part of this effort.

During a recent introductory address to EPA’s staff, Leavitt stated that he envisions a new wave of environmental productivity in America. This productivity will stem from people joining together in collaborative networks for environmental teamwork. Many of these networks will be small and made up of neighbors, communities, and local governments, while others will involve larger geographic areas that are massive in scope and scale. Leavitt believes that collaboration, which exceeds national, state, and community boundaries, is the next great leap in environmental productivity. He has challenged EPA to lead the way.

A Special Word from AIEO's Carol Jorgensen

I'd like to take a moment and reflect on some of the challenges, experiences, and events that I've encountered in this past year and a half while working in the Tribal Program. I joined the EPA American Environmental Indian Office (AIEO) on May 6, 2002. I will admit that going from a land management agency to a regulatory agency was a change, although I've worked in air, land, water, and enforcement during my 40-plus years career. As I have traveled throughout the U.S. to visit Tribes, I know that a lot of work remains to be done. Some of this includes cleaning rivers, lakes, and water bodies, as well as restoring contaminated fish and food sources, that our Tribes depend on throughout the coastal and inland areas for their subsistence needs. I've seen areas suffering from solid waste pollution and reservations severely affected by air pollution from surrounding developments, mining,

and industrial wastes. As a result of these conditions, Tribes are seeing more adverse health effects, and reports of cancer, diabetes, asthma, other lung problems, and allergies are increasing. These are areas that demand our immediate attention and commitment in finding solutions. These issues are our challenges for many future decades.

The good news is that Tribes are committed to partnering with EPA to tackle these tough health and environmental concerns. It is gratifying to see the Tribes committed to this work. As I often say, "...if you give Tribes \$1.00, they will make it \$2.50...they will do whatever it takes to ensure that they are making a better world for their children, grandchildren, and their future generations." Amazingly, they use their knowledge of the past to make a better future. Thousands of years of experience, information, and science are resulting in outcomes that we all need to pay attention to for our world. Through indigenous knowledge, along with some of the best science in EPA, we will sustain the Tribes and all people in the future.

There is much work to be done, and we have yet to scratch the surface. We need to determine where to go from here. However, the rewarding factor is that EPA is committed to Tribes and is making headway in the Tribal program. The commitment from the Administrator is strong and very supportive. With that kind of commitment, we can only build a stronger foundation that will guarantee continued work and improvement on Tribal environmental issues.

I feel humbled, privileged and honored to work in this program, and my passion is to ensure that Tribal people have a strong, bright future for centuries to come. As a Tribal member I want to ensure that we leave a better legacy for our children than we see today. My appreciation goes to the Tribes and this Agency that have cared enough to take a stand, develop the 1984 Indian Policy, and honor our commitment to the Tribes while working in a government-to-government, trust relationship. This demonstrates respect for sovereign Tribal nations and attempts to heal some of the past actions in order to build on a bright future.

Gonal Cheesh Ho Ho, my most sincere appreciation and thanks go out to all of you. Keep up the wonderful work and don't get discouraged. As my Elders say, "...everything happens for a reason, and all things come in time if it is meant to be."

Sincerely,

*Carol J. Jorgensen, (Shuk de Hait),
Director, American Indian Environmental Office*

A Note from the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxics Substances (OPPTS) is pleased to provide this pilot issue, sponsored by *OPPTS Tribal News*. This issue provides a unique opportunity to feature key environmental programs, activities, and information from all EPA media offices and highlights the successes and progress to protect the environment in Indian country.

EPA continues to explore ways to achieve its goals with Indian Tribes so that the protection of our air, water, land and communities

and ecosystems can be successfully sustained for future generations. EPA is firmly committed to enhancing its partnership with Tribes through the development of effective relationships and communications. This pilot is one attempt to provide a unified source of information that is not currently available.

We hope that you will find this pilot issue useful and full of valuable information that will assist you in understanding and carrying out environmental protection programs and activities in your Tribal communities and on your lands.

OPPTS would like to thank the EPA and Tribal contributors for their support of this pilot issue. We, at OPPTS, also look forward to working with all of our EPA and Tribal partners in ensuring a healthier and cleaner environment.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Hazen, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances

Marylouise Uhlig, Associate Assistant Administrator for Management, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances

OPPTS Tribal Strategy

At the request of several Tribal representatives, OPPTS has decided to extend the time frame for Tribal review of the OPPTS Draft Tribal Strategy until February 17, 2004. This Strategy is important to many Tribal environmental programs as it contains specific long-term and short-term environmental goals and objectives regarding OPPTS environmental protection programs in Indian country.

OPPTS expects to finalize this Strategy in Spring 2004. For further information and to obtain a copy of the draft Strategy or submit Tribal comments regarding the Strategy, please contact Caren-Rothstein-Robinson, EPA OPPTS, at 202-564-0544 or rothstein-robinson.caren@epa.gov.

Bridging the Digital Divide, Improving Tribal Access to Environmental Information

Office of Environmental Information
Jeff Tumarkin

There are many issues surrounding the Digital Divide that are common to every under-represented group, including income levels, education levels, information, computer literacy, Internet access, available technology and geographic location. However, among the Native American people, there is an additional consideration of cultural concerns and diversity among Tribes that needs to be addressed. The Digital Divide among Native American people needs to be bridged in such a way that it will respect and preserve each Tribe's cultural heritage while providing improved access to relevant environmental information. Although Tribal governments and Native Americans residing on reservations have made great strides in getting online, federal officials and Tribal leaders are concerned about the lack of internet access for schools, homes, and businesses on reservations.

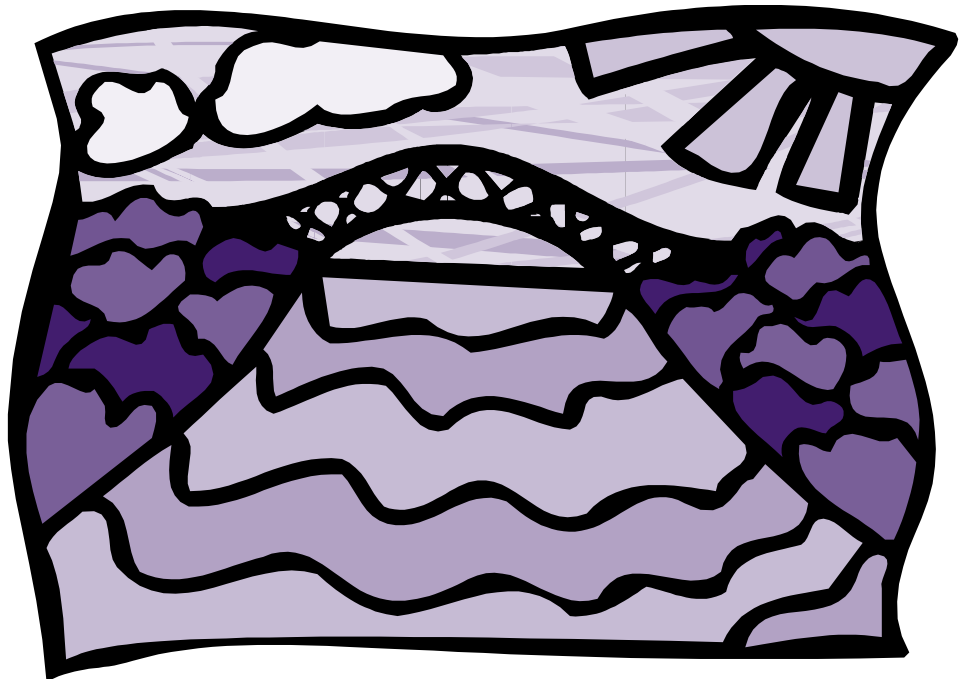
Currently, EPA's main web site does not have a single point of entry for Tribes to access when seeking environmental information or assistance. EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI), in partnership with the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), is developing a Tribal Portal to facilitate access to relevant environmental information for Native Americans. Although much of this information may be available on the Internet, it is not available via a centrally located and easily searchable web

site. Additionally, a Tutorial is being developed to accompany the Portal in order to assist users in locating the information they seek. While developing a Tribal Portal has many merits, non Web-based methods for disseminating relevant environmental information also need to be considered. On October 9, 2003, OEI participated in a ceremony to kick-off the pilot of the Public Access

Workstation and Tribal Portal at the Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana. The Workstation, along with the Tribal Portal and Tutorial, will help to provide relevant environmental information and encourage Tribal feedback to the Agency.

In order to make sure that EPA provides relevant environmental information in a culturally sensitive way, OEI and AIEO are partnering with Tribal representatives, Tribal organizations, other EPA Offices, EPA Regional Tribal contacts, and other government agencies in developing both Web and non-Web based products and services.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding this project, please contact Jeff Tumarkin, EPA Office of Environmental Information, at 202-566-0681 or tumarkin.jeff@epa.gov.



A Trail for Protecting Traditional and Tribal Lifeways

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

Mary Lauterbach, EPA Tribal News Editor

Fred Corey, Aroostook Band of MicMacs, Environmental Health Department

Kesner Flores, Cortina Indian Rancheria, Wintun Tribe, Environmental Protection Agency

Andrea Hanks, Navajo Nation

Tribes are keenly aware of their environment and are equally observant in detecting adverse changes that are occurring. Over time, these changes have become prime examples of how traditional ways of life are being threatened or eliminated today. The environments of the great forests of the east and west coasts, Great Lakes, everglades, northern plains, southwestern deserts and canyons, arctic, oceans, and delta plains are being adversely impacted by contaminants from past and present sources.

It may surprise some that even native environments from as far as the Arctic are being adversely affected by pollutants that do not know natural or political boundaries.

For example, DDT, a substance banned internationally as long as 25 years ago, still shows up in the tissues of sea mammals in the Arctic.

In many cases, Tribes know what the problems are and what they need to do in order to address these complex issues. In other cases, they do not know what is causing the changes, how it is affecting their people, and what they need to do in order to mitigate the risks associated with the changes.

The continued protection of Tribal lands and waterways where traditional

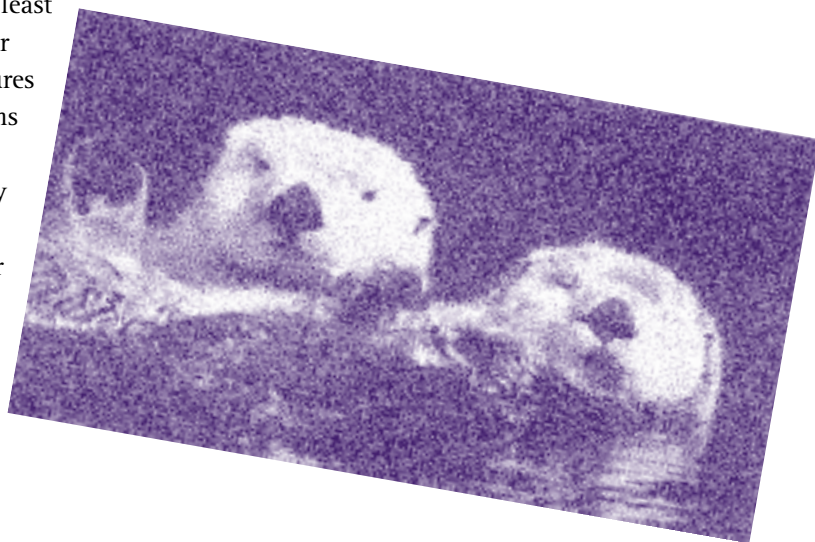
activities have taken place throughout their history, such as gathering, fishing, hunting, trapping, herding, and harvesting, is at stake. This unique way of life and the culture associated with it need protection in order for each Tribe to survive. These cultural elements include, but are not limited to, legends, ceremonies, songs, dances, spiritual knowledge, languages, and worldviews. So intertwined are these cultural elements to the natural environment, that many Tribes cannot exist as healthy, vibrant communities without practicing and sharing their cultural heritage. *It must be understood that to have any part of their environment contaminated or compromised affects the whole, and thus may not allow some Tribes to pursue their sovereign rights to continue on with their traditional ways of life.*

Many Tribes will agree that in order to enable at least some of their unique cultures and traditions to continue the way they have been practiced for thousands of years, change must

begin now—while others may think that “now” might already be too late. Tribal communities may find that the efforts by the Tribes to protect their traditional lifeways may be one of the most important environmental issues confronting them today.

Over the past several years, Tribal representatives have been working together and in partnership with EPA on this most pressing and fundamental environmental issue. There has been, through a series of discussions and meetings, an effort to better define the issues, setting forth an agenda, and building a solid network of Tribal representatives to assist EPA.

Provided on the next few pages are short summaries of some of the different meetings, various perspectives regarding the outcomes that have taken place, Tribal recommendations that have been made, and current directives relating to the protection of the Tribal traditional ways of life. Additional meetings related to this topic also are listed chronologically.



Choctaw, Mississippi*

September 2002

This meeting was one of the first that began over the last year and half, with a total of 39 people participating in person or by phone. The breakdown represented 21 Tribal and 18 EPA media office representatives. The Tribal representatives were from various EPA advisory groups and Tribal organizations such as: National Tribal Operations Council, Regional Tribal Operations Council, Tribal Science Council, Tribal Association on Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Tribal Pesticides Program Council, Forum on State and Tribal Toxic Action, and the newly forming Tribal Air Group. There were also Alaska Village Natives and inter-Tribal representatives.

The meeting's intent was for EPA to hear more from the Tribes on what the issues are and to establish a better way for EPA to work collaboratively with Tribes to ensure that all the efforts can make an impact.

Several important areas were discussed and several action items were developed at the meeting.

A major topic was the word "Subsistence" and whether another term should be used to improve the understanding of the "Subsistence" concerns of the Tribes. A need was identified to go back to consult with the Tribes and Villages to have a discussion on what appropriate term

should be used that best describes what is being referred to since it encompasses so much. One interpretation taken from a document titled "Subsistence; A Scientific Collaboration Between Tribal Governments and EPA" defines it as:

Subsistence is about relationships between people and their surrounding environment, a way of living. Subsistence involves an intrinsic spiritual connection to the earth, and includes an understanding that the earth's resources will provide everything necessary for human survival. People who subsist from the earth's basic resources remain connected to those resources, living within the circle of life. Subsistence is about living in a way that

will ensure the integrity of the earth's resources for the beneficial uses of generations to come.

Until further consultation with Tribes and Alaskan Villages, the term Tribal Traditional Lifeways may be offered in place of the term, "subsistence."

Choctaw, Mississippi Environmental Voice

According to Don Aragon, Wind River/Tribal Representative to TOC and Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee of NEJAC, "...Subsistence doesn't only impact Indians. It would behoove us not to leave out all the many people who rely on the earth's resources to support them. We're not rich corporate executives like we see on the news. In looking at these concerns, consider all the stakeholders and not just the Tribal people."

Activities/Next Steps Suggested by Tribal Representatives at Choctaw, Mississippi, September 2002

- Tribal representatives want better communication between all EPA Tribal advisory groups and EPA
- Tribal representatives want EPA to address Tribal privacy, confidentiality, and intellectual property concerns
- Tribal representatives want EPA's Strategic Plan to include protection of Tribal traditional lifeways work needs
- Tribal representatives must be recognized within the state of environmental effort
- Tribes must say what is needed to protect Tribal traditional lifeways
- Tribal representatives must learn about EPA's needs in order to partner with Tribes on this protection effort
- Tribal representatives should support the concept of a gathering (or summit) of indigenous people, along with federal and State agencies, on traditional lifeways
- Tribal representatives need to form a Tribal Steering Committee
- Tribal representatives want EPA to advise whether the Agency will commit to sponsoring such a gathering in conjunction with the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., in September 2004.

Anchorage, Alaska*

April 2003

The Subsistence Technical Planning Meeting for the Protection of Traditional and Tribal Lifeways was hosted in Anchorage, Alaska. The natural state of the environment has always been a vital part of the indigenous way of life and culture; it has sustained Tribes through the ages. A threat to the life subsistence of indigenous people has been linked to the contamination of the environment; this has affected the health and the cultural identity of indigenous people.

During the April 12-16, 2003 meeting, environmental concerns affecting traditional lifeways and Tribal subsistence were discussed. Workshop participants included Tribal leaders, elders, environmental scientists, risk assessors, environmental directors, technical advisors, and EPA representatives.



Many of the following issues were raised during this workshop and goals were set:

- Defining "subsistence" from the indigenous perspective compared to the EPA perspective and vice versa
- Identifying a set of assessment and communication tools that would enable Tribes to develop their own

assessment of subsistence contamination

- Identify scientific research and data gaps that exist
- Share information and knowledge to help develop a process and a structure to protect traditional ways of life
- Address the communication difficulties that exist between Tribes, EPA and other agencies

Marylouise Uhlig, Associate Assistant Administrator for the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS) said, "EPA's relationship with Tribes has been growing, but there is still a lot to be done. I hope over the next few days to listen and learn a lot more about how we can be more effective partners than we are today."

Goals for participants at the workshop were to define, understand, and name the issues relating to Tribal ways of life, traditional lifeways,

and/or subsistence.

The defined purpose was to enable agencies to recognize the issues and better serve Tribes.

However, how does an indigenous person interpret and describe the natural expression and emotion that is connected to the environment? It is not something that can be easily be categorized.



Activities/Nest Steps Suggested by Tribal Representatives at Anchorage, Alaska, April 2003

- Tribal representatives want to maintain seed banks
- Tribal representatives see Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) grants as a critical need
- Tribal representatives want to incorporate traditional knowledge into hazard rating
- Tribal representatives advise EPA to remember the smaller Tribes and include their voices
- Tribes recommend that legislation may be enacted to address and protect Tribal traditional knowledge and lifeways
- Tribal representatives want to create a national database to track plants and the contaminants that they may absorb
- Tribal representatives also need to have an inter-agency workgroup that would represent the U.S. Department of Defense, EPA, etc.

Anchorage, Alaska

Environmental Voices

Throughout the workshop, participants representing various Tribes described the concept of traditional lifeways and subsistence using a variation of terms. However there were several common themes such as the concept of culture and environment being intertwined. From the Tribal perspective, these elements cannot be separated, and this concept should be understood by federal agencies while working with Tribes.

One Tribal elder said, "...those of you working for Tribes but not members, or for an agency, remember you're working with Indian people who view the land in a different way...You must remember that you are dealing with Indian's feelings for that land. That is much different than for non-Indian lands. You can't be on a certain piece of land for thousands of years without having a deep connection to that land. My message to you is that while you're making management policies for our lands you must incorporate the culture and traditions within the management plan."

Another Tribal elder expressed a similar idea. According to him, "One of the things that we consider is that when we talk about community, we're not talking about humans, we're talking about plants, animals and people, and there is no hierarchy."

A further participant said, "When we are talking about resources and protecting them, our cultural resources and natural resources are the same. They are used for food, medicines, and spirituality. Protecting these things is protecting tribal culture. If those resources are damaged or eliminated, we've hurt the culture. Protection (of environment) means protection of the tribal culture."

The complexity of consistent communication on this topic between Tribes,



agencies, and organizations was one of many issues being addressed.

Workshop participants agreed that improving communication and coordination between the various groups addressing these issues was a major goal of this meeting. It also is very important that the groundwork, history, background, and status of projects in progress be readily available for new participants at future meetings in order to discuss and move forward on these issues. The National Tribal Operations Committee was suggested as the potential group to communicate related activities and play the role of a central clearinghouse.

Many participants had questions about risk assessments used to develop "safe levels" because what EPA considers safe for the overall population may not be safe for Tribes due to their unique dietary and cultural lifeways.

It was mentioned that "EPA's challenge is to figure out how to understand the Native ways and weave into the bureaucracy, actions that can address these concerns.

Carole Jorgensen, Tlingit and EPA American Indian Environmental Office Director, expressed that she believes there is support within the Agency to work with the Tribes to address these issues and to look for opportunities to move forward in a collaborative manner. She

said, "I constantly get calls from EPA colleagues asking how they can participate in working with the Tribes to identify these issues and find solutions." She also expressed her hope to find opportunities for meeting with Tribes to have two way discussions in a respectful, non-violating way. Tribal members know the environmental issues on their reservations best. Therefore, scientific studies of contaminants don't necessarily have to be conducted, and tribal people see and live it everyday. They already have the knowledge and the evidence that is needed to identify the issues. Jorgensen also said, "...sometimes Tribes need to be careful about what they share (culturally)...But on the other hand, elders are saying it is time to share this for the sake of the animals, plants, birds, fish, air, water and people, before it's too late.

Further ideas for addressing these issues included:

- Distribute information prior to meeting so new participants could call with questions, and therefore, improve the outcome of conference calls and meetings
- Find economical approaches for meeting and discussing these issues, such as establishing a 1-800 number or providing Tribes with calling cards.
- Establish an information clearinghouse, perhaps a web page, where Tribes could search projects and gain knowledge of similar Agency/Tribal projects, as well as post notes from past meetings.
- Develop a community resource directory to include contact information, as well as activity descriptions, for information or programs of interest.
- Inform appropriate Tribal and federal staff unable to attend meetings of major meeting results and up-coming opportunities to get involved with the discussion.

Pyramid Lake, Nevada*

May 2003

At Pyramid Lake, participants gathered during May 13-15, 2003 for the Tribal Traditional Lifeways Health and Well-Being Approach Workshop. The goals of this meeting were to:

- Share and discuss the topic of health and well-being and traditional knowledge and science in general terms
- Explain the health and well being paradigm being developed by

members of the National EPA Tribal Science Council (TSC)

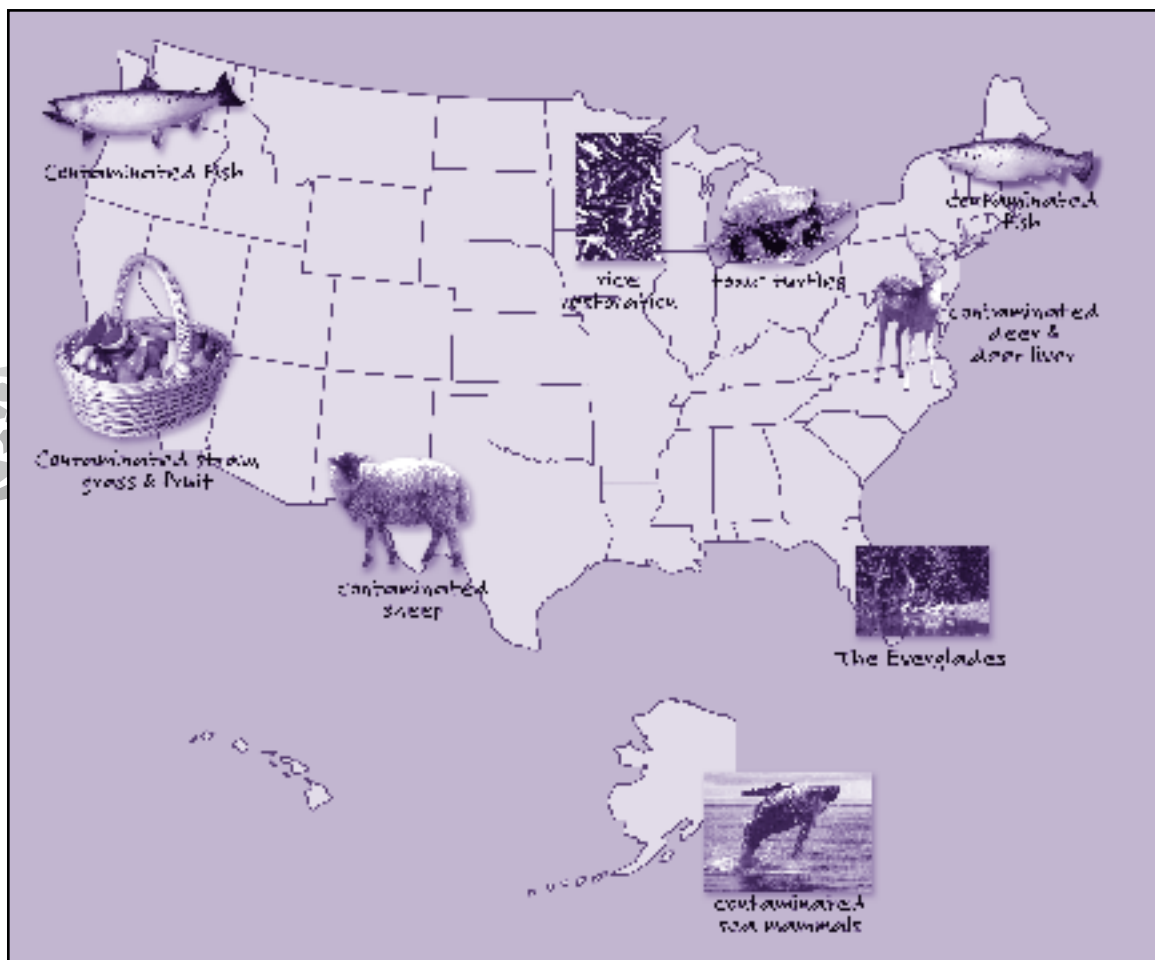
- Share stories about health and well being topics and the use of traditional knowledge and science
- Discuss next steps.

Traditional knowledge and western science can include very different approaches and basic philosophies when compared to one another.

Over many generations, Tribes have developed a holistic traditional

scientific knowledge of their lands, natural resources, and environment. Many have acknowledged that North American Tribes possess the greatest traditional scientific knowledge of botany in the world today. However, there have been examples where traditional knowledge and western science have been used together to produce a positive outcome, such as the discovery of the Hanta virus (1993), Ashkui Project, and climate studies of the Arctic.

Some Areas of Traditional Lifeways in Indian Country Now Threatened by Toxic Contaminants



Tribal Science Council (TSC) Health and Well-Being Paradigm

The current risk assessment methods used by EPA often are viewed by Tribal environmental managers as not suitable for Tribal communities. The model does not consider the impacts to cultural activities and ideals. The risk model can affect the health and vitality of Tribal communities and their unique identities to carry on the traditions and cultures for future generations. To allow the completion of the paradigm, there is a need to return back to the Tribal communities to learn how their health and well-being are being determined. A useful model, based upon the document “Cultural Ecosystems Stories,” written by Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes of Washington, includes the following:

- A description of a community’s historical relationship with its natural resources and environment, as related through oral and other traditions (e.g., stories)
- A review of a community’s current relation-

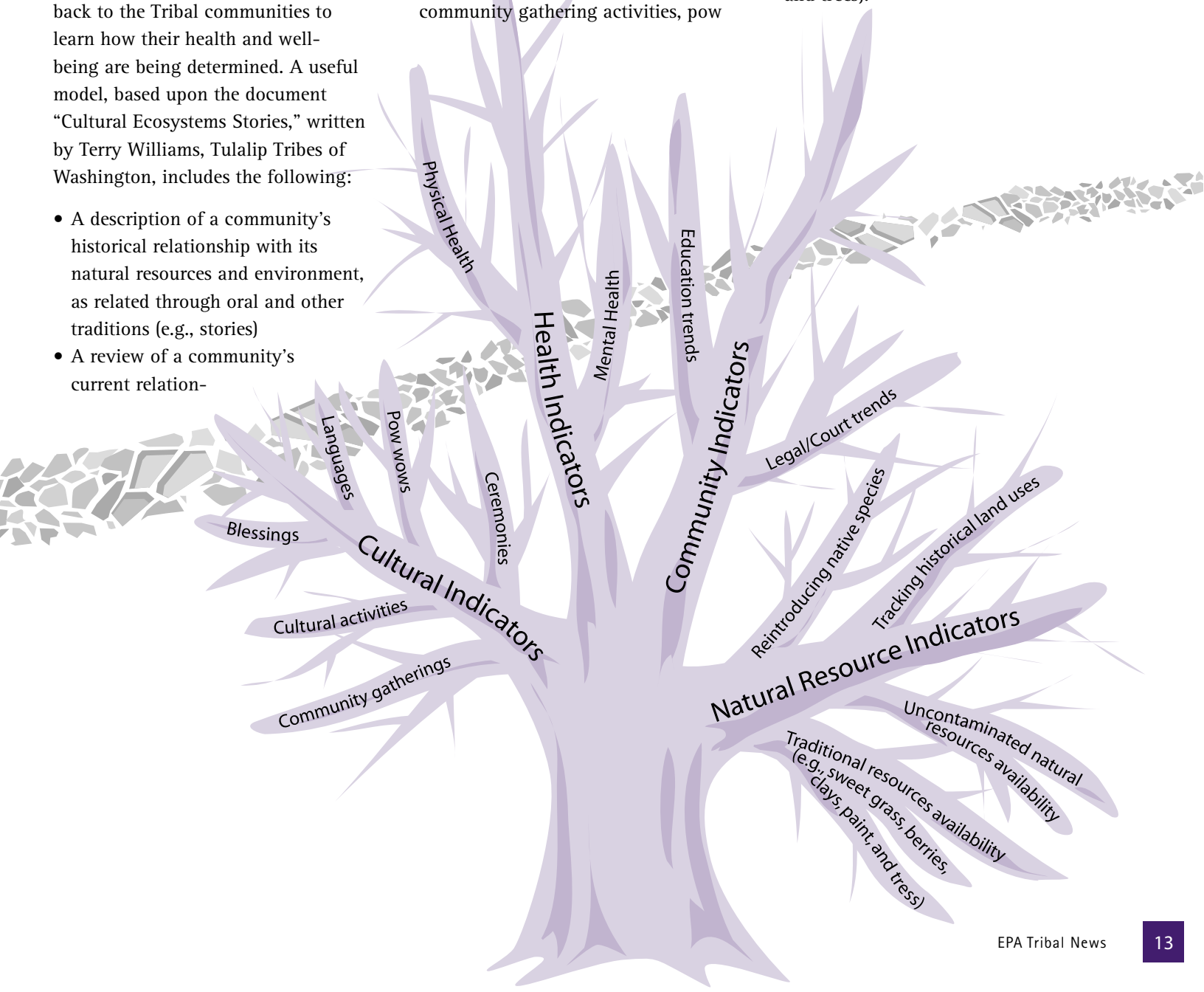
ship with these natural resources and environment, as well as their condition

- A strategy developed by the community for managing natural resources and the environment that renew and maintain the community’s historical relationships.

The TSC Health and Well-Being Paradigm under development by the EPA Tribal Science Council includes cultural indicators, such as community gathering activities, pow

wows, ceremonies, blessings, cultural activities, and languages. Also, the paradigm includes health indicators, such as trends in both physical and mental health, as well as community indicators, such as trends in youth completing schools and trends within Tribal courts.

The paradigm also has natural resources indicators, such as reintroduction of native species, tracking of historical land uses, availability of uncontaminated natural resources to continue traditional practices, and availability of traditional resources to continue on with traditional practices (e.g., sweet grass, berries, clays, paint, and trees).



St. Regis Mohawk, A Unique Example of a Tribal Community at Risk and Its Solutions for Restoration

During the 1950's, the St. Lawrence River area attracted many industries due to the region's hydropower capabilities. It was then that the St. Regis Mohawks began to face serious environmental contamination issues. Common environmental contaminants were PCBs, fluorides, and other industrial pollutants, along with their by-products. Exposure to these contaminants resulted in adverse impacts on the health of the Mohawk communities. It was a decade later, that studies indicated that the fish were unfit for human consumption. At that time, the Tribe thought that their best option was to use fish advisories. Tribal members heeding the fish advisories greatly reduced the amount of fish that had been consumed historically. From this reduction in fish consumption, it became apparent that unintended consequences greatly impacted the

their language and cultural activities tied to fishing, the historic economic base through fish harvesting, and consumption of their traditional diet consisting mainly of fish. This led to changes in their traditions and culture. The tradition grew from a fishing-oriented culture to one that included other foreign industries and diets. These changes resulted in more cigarette shops, gas stations, and non-traditional trading enterprises. Negative health impacts, such as diabetes, upper respiratory diseases, and thyroid disorders resulting from exposures to a Western diet also became apparent. When the Tribe recognized these problems, it was able to address the issues and force the industries affecting their community to pay \$500 million in clean-up and restoration activities. These efforts included the installation of fluoride scrubbers and

health and well being of the Tribal community and culture.

The Tribal community, which was largely comprised of hunters, fishers, cattleman, and farmers, was greatly impacted as a result of the advisories. It was found that their way of life and personal identity and relationship to their environment quickly disappeared. This included

removal of the PCBs from river sediments. Also, the Tribe was resourceful in seeking alternative traditional Tribal resources, such as deer farming, aquaculture, and restoration of native plant life. The Tribe also made special efforts to resume many cultural aspects, such as basket-weaving and food preparations.

Akwesasne*

July 2003

In July 2003, a briefing was provided by James Ransom, Haudenosaunne Environmental Task Force, to 50 participants of a Tribal environmental conference at Akwesasne. The conference was hosted by the Akwesasne Community Task Force on the Environment and covered environmental issues related to the St. Lawrence River. During his presentation, Ransom highlighted all of the traditional Tribal lifeways meetings that had been held to date and addressed the future direction of this topic.

The Next Steps, A Tribal Perspective

by Kesner Flores

In anticipation of a National Tribal Lifeways Summit, some Tribes have recommended that it is essential to start coordinating and planning now. Funding opportunities must be investigated, dates and times need to be established, and a web site must be developed to facilitate the process. Also, people knowing other interested parties or organizations should submit their contacts' information. A National Tribal Lifeways Summit is a major endeavor that will require huge amounts of time and energy over the next year. In the past, we have shared our concerns and established goals of communication, development, outreach, and education. Now is the time to raise awareness in a broader arena.

Our goal for the National Tribal Lifeways Summit is to have a very respectful gathering of all people. The summit will not only include public statements, but will be a place for gathering.

Also, what is said at a meeting is not always as important as the number of persons attending. Sometimes battles were won by show of force without a blow being struck. Thus, it is important to be there for the opening.

Recommendations for a Successful Summit:

- Tribes, as well as national Tribal workgroups from all media (e.g., air, water, waste, and toxics)

and the federal agencies need to communicate information received at other meetings as a collective group.

- Tribes need to evaluate the outcomes of other meetings and identify ways to continue working on goals and initiatives. Tribes also need to identify a responsible group or party.
- There is no lead. This allows for loss of momentum. Tribal participants shared and opened the door into their culture and existence. With proper support and leadership, the outcomes from the Summit will benefit the world.
- The national Tribal organizations are keeping it alive, along with EPA's media offices. However, more concerted efforts by EPA media offices and

Tribal groups are needed in order to bring this effort to the level of attention needed in the national arena.

- The final results and meeting notes (or minutes) from the Anchorage, Alaska, April 2003 meeting were sent to the Alaska Science Commission.
- Tribes need to encourage EPA offices to designate a single point of contact. Communication efforts will benefit from this, and participation in Tribal Lifeways efforts will only improve. With participation from everyone, we all benefit. We are dealing with the whole circle of life and future generations.

- One Tribal organization could take the lead to facilitate all Tribal national and media-specific groups (e.g., TPPC, TSC, NTAA, NTEC, TASWER and Superfund workgroups).
- Some Tribes also have suggested that EPA's American Indian Environmental Office and the National Tribal Environmental Council forge a partnership to coordinate subsistence activities, such as planning the National Tribal Lifeways Summit for Fall 2004.

If you are interested in this effort and want to assist or learn more about protecting traditional and Tribal Lifeways, please contact Kesner Flores, Wintun Environmental Protection Agency Director, P.O. Box 1839, 570 Sixth Street, Suite F, Williams, California, 95987, Tribalsub@hotmail.com.

Get to Know Kesner C. Flores, Jr.

Kesner C. Flores, Jr., is a member of the Cortina Indian Rancheria Band of California and has worked with the Tribe throughout his life. After serving in the U.S. military, Flores helped jumpstart the Tribe's health organization while working as a paramedic, as well as training and instructing personnel in pre-hospital care, disaster response and preparedness, and critical stress management.

For the past 10 years, Flores has served as Director of the Wintun Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Tribe's environmental department. Flores also represents his Tribe as a member of numerous national environmental organizations and executive committees. Also, he has consulted with Tribes on governmental relations, consultation, strategic planning, Tribal utility systems, and environmental concerns. Flores has helped facilitate partnerships with federal and State agencies in regards to Tribal concerns, create new national organizations, and address science and subsistence issues with Tribes on a national level. Currently, Kesner Flores, Jr. is working to strengthen communications between Tribal organizations and other agencies.

Miccosukee Resort, Florida

November 2003

At the first annual meeting with the Tribal Operations Committee (TOC), Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), and the EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), meeting participants were updated on previous Tribal lifeways meetings and the outcomes of those meetings. The TOC/RTOC/AIEO meeting was held November 4-6, 2003 at the Miccosukee Resort in Florida. During an open discussion following the update, participants at the TOC/RTOC/AIEO meeting agreed that Tribal lifeways issues are inextricably linked to Tribal cultural and natural resource concerns. Participants also expressed many of the same Tribal lifeways concerns as those expressed at the previous meetings, including Tribal information confidentiality, cultural

survival, and mining and contaminant impacts on Tribal communities.

Following the discussion, the TOC formally expressed support for:

- A National Tribal Lifeways Summit to bring together Tribes and federal agencies to advance Tribal lifeways issues
- Establishment of a workgroup consisting of TOC, RTOC, and Tribal environmental group representatives to begin the planning process for a National Tribal Lifeways Summit
- Appointment of Kesner Flores (TOC Region 9 Alternate) to develop and implement a communications policy to engage the TOC, RTOC, Tribal environmental groups, Tribes, and EPA in planning for the Summit.

Other Meetings That Focused on Traditional and Tribal Lifeways

- Reno, Nevada, June 2002, Tribal Participants Meeting
- San Francisco, California, December 2002, Planning and Discussion meeting of the upcoming Alaska Summit
- Gila River, April - May 2003

*Summaries were based upon written reports from official notes taken at these meetings.

New Handbook on Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

Justin VanFleet

Realizing that traditional knowledge holders stand outside the fold of intellectual property (IP) rights and are most often negatively affected by them, the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program has created a handbook that attempts to make intellectual property issues and protection options more understandable and readily available for traditional knowledge holders, human rights NGOs, and legal professionals. Its ultimate goal is to help local communities understand and identify potential protection mechanisms already present in the current intellectual property rights regime that may be applied to their knowledge. For communities that do not wish to participate in the IP regime, it offers suggestions and options to avoid inappropriate claims on their knowledge by others. In addition to introducing intellectual property concepts, this handbook contains a series of exercises to help the user to identify and classify types of knowledge, cultural aspects, and

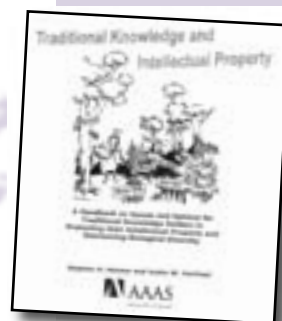
community goals related to specific knowledge claims.

Through a series of exercises, it is possible for traditional knowledge holders to identify whether or not specific intellectual property protection options are relevant and/or

appropriate for their knowledge.

An electronic version of the handbook is now available for download free of charge at: <http://shr.aaas.org/tek/handbook/>. Print copies will become available in the coming weeks for a nominal fee to cover printing and shipping charges. Check the web site for updates on distribution.

For more information, contact Stephen Hansen, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20005, shansen@aaas.org.



Considering Gender Roles in Environmental Policy and Management: A Navajo Perspective

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
Vanessa Vandever, Navajo Nation

“Navajo interactions with [the environment] are characterized by a strong sense of connectedness to and respect for all living things, including the earth, which is personified as the beloved deity, Changing Woman. An important aspect of maintaining harmonious relations with the universe is the recognition of humankind’s place in the web of life and the acceptance that nature is more powerful than humans.”

—Trudy Griffin-Pierce

Recognition of gender roles within a culture must be incorporated into environmental policy and program development. Women and men have different relationships with the environment, depending on social and economic factors that shape these relationships. Thus, policies and programs may affect women and men negatively when they do not take into account gender roles. In order to adopt policies that are effective and beneficial, both industrialized and developing countries must work to recognize how outside forces, such as structures created by the market economy, interact with cultural norms at the macro and micro levels of a society.

Many indigenous peoples have matrilineal (or ancestral) and matrilineal social systems that influence how the environment and land are perceived, used, and

inherited. The Navajo Nation from inside the United States borders is a compelling example of how traditional gender roles affect resource management. The Navajo Nation is a matrilineal and matrilineal society that is currently confronted with environmental management issues that stem from outside influence on gender roles. Although submersed within the capitalistic patri-biased American society, the Navajo people nevertheless continue to identify themselves with their mother’s clan.

The roles of Navajo men and women are highly dependent on and influenced by the environment (i.e. market systems). As with many

developing nations, the Navajo people continue to live off and depend on the land. Natural resource extraction provides a source of livelihood for many Navajos. The current conflict and concern over natural resource extraction is closely associated with the differences in how Navajo women and men relate to the environment and the land. Navajo culture has traditionally associated the environment with female strength and differentiations between the genders. In fact, the Navajo people have always illustrated the importance of gender roles and kinship systems through their creation stories and religious beliefs.

Although creation stories have depicted the struggle of power between sexes, the fundamental message of the stories is that both genders are to contribute equally to establish the harmony that is so vital for the survival of Navajo people. In fact, the relationship to the environment around Navajo people is distinguished by associating natural elements with gender. For example,



Paul Natonabah, Navajo Times

gender distinctions in creation stories include mother earth and father sky; female rain and male rain; and dawn girl and dawn boy. Furthermore, most Navajo deities are female, including Changing Woman, Spider Woman, and White Shell Woman. The female gender has great significance within the Navajo teachings because femaleness represents the power to create life.

In the contemporary world, changing economic and social systems have resulted in transformations within matrilineal and matrilocal societies. For example, on the Navajo reservation, the economic and social structures have come to mirror the western structure. A tension has been created between traditional Navajo and western beliefs/practices, forcing the Navajo people to live with an irresolvable dichotomy in order to survive in a patri-biased capitalist structure. In the past, Navajo women have been leaders in decision-making and have controlled the land. Since the women inherited the land and had a greater vested interest, they historically worked more closely with their environment. Although many Navajo people continue to value the role of women in the decision-making process, the current structure does not allow for significant female participation. Furthermore, due to pressures from outside forces, inheritance practices have transformed by certain degrees, depending on land use practices in particular areas, and have decreased women's control of the land.

The importance of gender roles in environmental policy is vividly demonstrated by the controversy over the natural resource extraction of coal mining on Black Mesa in Arizona. Coal mining on Black Mesa has transformed traditional Navajo practices and lifestyles and become one of the largest revenue bases for the Navajo Nation. It has also become an extremely controversial land use issue because of the strip mining that is transported by a slurry line, which is depleting the N-aquifer at an astounding rate. Because Black Mesa is one of the more secluded areas on the Navajo Reservation, the traditional gender roles are still apparent, and the culture is primarily matrilineal and matrilocal. The effect of coal mining on the land is heightened for Navajo women since they will inherit this land and have a vested interest in best land use practices. Although the current patri-biased system of governance does not acknowledge Navajo women's role as decision-makers, the Navajo women are fighting back and are regaining power by forming a grassroots activist organization against the strip mining. As a result, Navajo women on Black Mesa have been the driving force behind educating their children and whole communities about the environmental degradation caused by coal mining. Even more importantly, the women are replacing the ideologies of modern patri-biased industrialized nations with a holistic view of the world. Navajo women are empowering whole communities to return to traditional beliefs/practices.

As is demonstrated by the Black Mesa conflict, effective policy requires gender role structures to be examined at the macro and micro levels. Gender roles are fundamentally related to environmental issues for the Navajo people. In order to correct the current situation, Navajo women must not only be given support by men at the decision-making level, but they must once again be full and powerful participants in the decision-making process. On a global level, differentiations between gender roles within many industrial and developing cultures are associated with environmental use and practices. Therefore, strategies to revive the female participation (rather than patri-biased control) within environmental policy and program development are critical for the world to adopt policies and lifestyles that create a sustainable use of resources.

The Tribal Effective Asthma Management Project (TEAM)

Office of Radiation and Indoor Air
Erin Collard

Recent asthma prevalence studies have indicated that some Tribes within EPA Region VIII have an asthma prevalence rate that is up to 2.5 times higher than the national average. Additionally these studies have indicated a strong need for an effective and comprehensive approach to improve and expand the delivery of asthma management programs to the Tribes of Region VIII.

In response to these studies, the Radiation and Indoor Environment team of Region VIII has been collaborating with the Tribal Assistance Program and Indian Health Services as well as other sister agencies to design and implement the Tribal Effective Asthma Management (TEAM) Project. Unlike past programs, TEAM is designed to develop Tribal community capacity in assessing, understanding, and reducing exposure to environmental triggers of asthma. The project also outlines goals that will achieve positive outcomes that improve the

patient's quality of life and provide a culturally sensitive and coordinated delivery of asthma care.

TEAM will use Tribal Community Health Representatives to ensure that the delivery of asthma care will be sensitive to singular Tribal needs. The use of Tribal CHR's will be instrumental in improving patient understanding of the disease process, learning to reduce exposure to environmental triggers, and thus increase patient compliance in following asthma management plans.

For more information on the TEAM Project, please contact Region 8 Asthma Coordinator Erin Collard at 303-312-6361 or collard.erin@epa.gov.

Federal Air Rules for Indian Reservations in EPA Region 10

Region 10 Office of Air Quality
Debora Suzuki

EPA's Federal Air Rules for Indian Reservations in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington were proposed in the Federal Register on March 15, 2002. These rules, when finalized, will be an important step in ensuring basic air quality protection for a quarter million people on 39 Indian reservations in the Pacific Northwest. The rules range from emission limits for industrial sources to a general open burning rule, and they are the first building blocks under the Clean Air Act to address such air quality issues. EPA is proceeding with final promulgation and anticipates finalizing the rules in the summer of 2004.



EPA Office of Air and Radiation Highlights the TAMS Learning Center

Office of Air and Radiation
Darrel Harmon

The Tribal Air Monitoring (TAMS) Learning Center serves as a training center that assists Tribes with a variety of environmental needs, including training for air monitoring and outdoor ambient air quality. The TAMS Learning Center is located in Flagstaff, Arizona and was created in partnership by the Northern Arizona University Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), EPA, and Tribes. The Center provides about

ten, weeklong workshops per year, and its staff also provides training in the field for individuals or Tribal organizations. Some of this training includes equipment operation, environmental program development, data management, quality assurance and quality control, reporting, data analysis, and data interpretation/assessment.

By providing training and assistance in environmental work, the TAMS Center staff participates in cross-media environ-

mental awareness, assists EPA in revising environmental regulations, develops new technologies in partnership with industry, and encourages communication and technology transfer.

The TAMS Learning Center also promotes the importance of Native American culture and traditions as it houses displays of Native American-themed art. Future plans for the Center include arts and crafts exhibits.

More information on the TAMS Learning Center, including conference and meeting hosting, may be obtained by contacting Lee Anderson at 702-798-2559.

ITEP Director Receives Air Quality Award for Work with Indian Tribes

Office of Air and Radiation
Adapted from *Tribal Air News*, August 2003, Volume 2, Issue 3

Virgil Masayesva, Director of the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), was presented with the Mike Frost Memorial Achievement Award on April 30, 2003. The award was given for Masayesva's work in leading ITEP in air quality training and support work on behalf of Indian Tribes throughout the United States. ITEP is a national Tribal environmental training and support organization based at Northern Arizona University's Dubois Center, in Flagstaff, Arizona. For ten years, ITEP has trained more than 800 Tribal professionals in environmental management and maintains a variety of programs in specialized support, training, and K-12 environmental education.



Masayesva received the award from the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC). During his acceptance speech, Masayesva said, "It is especially an honor and a privilege for me to accept this award because Mike Frost was a very close personal friend, and of course he was a colleague. I knew Mike since 1993, when he was the first Tribal air quality professional we recruited to help develop what is now called our American Indian Air Quality Training Program. Mike was instrumental in getting ITEP off and running..."

The award was created in memory of Mike Frost, former Director of Environmental Programs for the Southern Ute Tribe in Colorado. Frost was an accomplished, Tribal air quality professional who passed in 1998.

Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona's Circuit Rider Responds to Growing Tribal Asthma Issues

Office of Radiation and indoor Air
Chris Griffin

Adapted from *Tribal Air News*, August 2003, Volume 2, Issue 3

Asthma is a chronic lung disease that affects more than 15 million people throughout the country, particularly disadvantaged populations and low-income communities, including some American Indians communities. The prevalence of asthma among American Indians has increased severely in the past few years, and according to reports and studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), asthma is one of the top 10 causes of death among American Indians/Alaskan Natives.

To address growing trends of asthma in Tribal homes, the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) has collaborated with EPA and other asthma risk reduction programs to design a program to educate American Indian families about indoor triggers within homes that may worsen or aggravate asthma. The program also addresses school absenteeism due to indoor air quality hazards and respiratory illnesses.

In July 2003, ITCA's Circuit Rider began traveling within Arizona and surrounding areas to conduct the *Asthma Tribal Community Training Program*. The Circuit Rider provided asthma risk reduction training, workshops, materials and technical assistance to interested Tribes. The *Asthma Tribal Community Training Program* is comprised of two components, the "Asthma 101:

Introduction to Asthma and Its Indoor Triggers" training and resource manual and the "Asthma Program Development" manual.

In addition to the *Asthma Tribal Community Training Program* training manuals, ITCA also developed the following outreach and education materials for Tribal communities:

- *Put Out Asthma Fire* Poster
- *Top Ten Asthma Triggers* Magnet
- *My Asthma Management* Memo Board.

All workshops and training materials are available to all Tribal nations. For additional questions on training or asthma awareness workshops, please contact Tamera Dawes, the ITCA Tribal Indoor Air/Asthma Risk Reduction Program Coordinator at 602-258-4822 or tamera.dawes@itcaonline.com.



EPA Video on New Source Review Program for Indian Country

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Michelle Dubow

Adapted from *Tribal Air News*, August 2003, Volume 2, Issue 3

In order to communicate EPA's Clean Air Act New Source Review (NSR) program, the Agency will produce a video to enhance outreach to Tribes. The video will also highlight new rules that EPA is proposing to fill NSR regulatory gaps in Indian Country, including a minor NSR rule.

EPA hopes that the video will:

- Give Tribes that have not been involved in this rule development process a basic primer on NSR and how these rules may affect them
- Help Tribes comment on the rules effectively during the official public comment period
- Enable Tribes to participate in implementation in a way that is right for them.

The video may be released as early Fall 2003. The Agency is producing the video in partnership with Tribal air organizations, including the Institute for Tribal Environmental Profes-

sionals (ITEP). The video allows EPA to be creative in its outreach efforts to Tribes that may not have much experience with NSR. For example, the video will highlight specific, NSR-related stories of Tribes with relevant experiences and will feature Tribal environmental professionals and leaders speaking about the benefits of these rules, as well as their ideas and concerns about the rules as they are currently drafted.

For more information about EPA's forthcoming NSR rules for Indian country, or to comment on the draft rules before proposal, contact Laura McKelvey, EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at 919-541-5497 or mckelvey.laura@epa.gov. For more information about the NSR video, contact Michele Dubow, EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at 919-541-3803 or dubow.michele@epa.gov.

Air Quality Data Work Group Formed

Office of Air and Radiation

Adapted from *Tribal Air News*, August 2003, Volume 2, Issue 3

Several Tribes have expressed concern about how Tribal data is currently entered and housed in EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) database, which contains measurements of criteria air pollutant concentrations in the United States, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. AQS requires Tribes to enter data under state and county codes, but some Tribes are concerned that this process of data entry does not consider Tribal sovereignty. EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards is interested in addressing this concern and would like to set up a workgroup with the Tribes, Regions and other EPA media offices to explore options that may address this concern and modify AQS. Readers who are interested in participating should contact Laura McKelvey at 919-541-5497 or mckelvey.laura@epa.gov. Nick Mangus at 919-541-5549 or mangus.nick@epa.gov. Need to check for a deadline or period for comments.

Tribal Emission Inventory Software System Developed

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Douglas Soloman, Adapted from *Tribal Air News*, August 2003, Volume 2, Issue 3

The Tribal Emission Inventory Software System (TEISS) is a project sponsored by the Western Regional Air Partnership's (WRAP) Tribal Data Development Working Group (TDDWG) and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP). TEISS is a software tool that can be used to calculate emission estimates for area, mobile, and point sources specific to Tribal lands. The TEISS also will use a Geographic Information System (GIS) interface to facilitate development, analysis, and presentation of the emissions

inventory data.

TEISS was developed in order to:

- Create emission inventory software with a user-friendly interface to facilitate emission inventories for Tribal lands
- Calculate technically defensible emission estimates that will meet the needs of Tribes and WRAP
- Create clear reports and maps that support the needs of Tribal air quality programs and WRAP.

TEISS is scheduled to be released in early 2004 and will be made available to all Tribes.

Tribal Air News is a quarterly, government publication produced by EPA's Office of Air and Radiation and Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. The newsletter publishes articles of interest highlighting air-related activities in Tribal communities and organizations. The Tribal Air web site, www.epa.gov/air/Tribal also publishes similar news items.



The Power of Wind: A Rosebud Reservation Success Story

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

Vanessa Vandever, Navajo

Native American people, whether from the Southwest or the Plains, believe the wind has great power. For this reason, many Native American Tribes view the wind as a holy symbol. As a result, wind power has become an avenue for Tribes to reclaim their sovereignty through economic self-sufficiency. More importantly, wind energy is a clean and renewable energy that has the potential to replace the Native Reservations' dependence on natural resource exploitation.

The Rosebud Sioux of the Northern Great Plains opened the first Tribally owned wind generator in May 2003. The unfavorable economic statistics of the Rosebud Sioux Reservation will be challenged with this 750-kilowatt wind turbine, which can produce enough electricity to serve about 300 to 350 houses according to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Utility Commission and InterTribal Council on Utility Policy (ICOU). The 750-kilowatt wind turbine has been made possible through the partnership between the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Utility Commission and the InterTribal Council on Utility Policy, as well as their collaboration with Tribal and non-Tribal organizations and

government and non-government organizations.

The current president of Rosebud Sioux Tribal Utility Commission, Ronald L. Neiss, recalls the introduction of wind development on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in an interview conducted in a Green Power Pioneer publication. Wind development was a vision that the late Alex "Little Soldier" Lunderman, who served as the president of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Utility Commission right up to his death, had for the Sicangu Oyate (Burnt Thigh Lakota People) on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Lunderman believed in the use of modern technology as well as traditional resources in a way that was compatible with the history, philosophy, and cultural and spiritual values. In a vision, Lunderman saw a long line of people behind him walking toward a traditional teepee. Inside the teepee were computers and other kinds of technologies that could be used to protect Mother Earth. He later stated that being able to generate clean electricity from the Four Winds could help the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

With the 750-kilowatt wind turbine in only its first stages, the full potential of wind energy on Tribal lands is yet to be known. According to Robert Gough, Secretary of InterTribal Council on Utility Policy, "the Indian reservation wind potential in just North and South Dakota exceeds well over 200,000 megawatts, which is over 100 times the currently available hydropower generation capacity of the Missouri River." Furthermore, the potential wind power on the reservation would replace the short-term and usually harmful economic growth with long-term economic growth.

The United States is one of the greatest energy consuming countries in the world, which means Americans are one of the greatest contributors to global climate change. At a more local level, Native communities are greatly increasing energy consumption due to casino development. To counteract the amount of energy being consumed by Americans, communities, cities, and states in the United States must work together to decrease the rate at which the global climate is changing. The Rosebud Sioux Reservation has taken a major step in the direction of renewable energy regeneration and reopened the doors to sustainable economic development.

States and Tribes Work Together to Address P2 Opportunities

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Harry Gregori

Working through the auspices of EPA's Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA), representatives from states and Tribes met in June 2003 at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut to outline opportunities for cooperative efforts to promote pollution prevention for Tribal activities. Jointly, the representatives identified a number of priority areas, including:

- Lead, coordinating with Health Departments and the Chemical Information Management Project
- TMDL and Water Quality
- Air Quality, especially Ozone and Diesel Fuel Issues
- Funding
- Waste Disposal
- Land Conservation
- Fisheries
- Wetlands
- Pollution Prevention (P2)
- Toxics, especially Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, and Selenium
- Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

Funding opportunities were identified as an item of particular importance, and the participants agreed to work together to coordinate with state P2 programs to identify funding opportunities and resource sharing. In addition, participants will look to coordinate grant and funding opportunities, seek options for changing, or meet match requirements to improve the level of participation by Tribes.

The states and Tribes will work with EPA to establish a Tribal Internet site and provide for Tribal Peer Review of information and selected strategies, as well as establish regular conference calls with representatives from the three FOSTTA projects and EPA. In addition, the states agreed to work with the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) and the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) to coordinate and improve effective communication with Tribal governments.

Representatives also focused on the initiative to address lead-based paint concerns. Participants agreed to work with EPA's Office of Research and Development to assist in identifying opportunities to provide Health and Environmental Education. Participants also will coordinate with ECOS to identify various Tribal issues and

priorities and seek opportunities through other federal agencies, such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and State programs to address lead abatement. Participants will work together to connect Tribes to the P2 Resources Exchange Centers and seek funding to improve access and information sharing.

On a larger scale, participants will work with EPA and the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) to conduct a National Tribal Pollution Prevention Conference. The National Tribal Pollution Prevention Conference may be linked to an existing conference in order to maximize opportunities for participation.

This meeting represents the beginning of an initiative to address pollution prevention issues with a specific focus on Tribal issues. This joint effort will add to existing research and information to benefit States and Tribes as they carry out their programs to protect public health and the environment.



An Example of Achieving Pollution Prevention

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

Adapted from "Visionary Planning for the Seventh Generation"

The Mohegan Sun Casino was created by the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut in 1996. Chief Ralph Sturges of the Mohegan Tribe led the construction of this grand casino with the help of Dr. Norm Richards. His goal was to create a building that would benefit the members of his Tribe, yet conserve the environment and resources surrounding them. Chief Sturges and Dr. Richards were able to do this by incorporating pollution prevention and the framework of "systems thinking" to analyze how different parts of a whole are connected.

The team focused on energy use, transportation, and recycling. Instead of receiving energy from coal-fired power plants, the Mohegan Sun relies on fuel cells fed by natural gas.

"It has to be good for the environment, and it has to be good for everyone."

—Chief Ralph Sturges, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

Fuel cells fed by natural gas provide electricity with more efficiency than coal-fired power plants. "Using less energy results in less pollution. Using less energy also saves money." Through an agreement with UTC Fuel Cells, the Mohegan Sun Casino agreed to become a test site and was granted use of fuel cells at no cost. Also, the hot water produced from fuel cells is recycled as preheated water for the boilers, as well as for the chillers within the casino.

Each guest room at the casino also includes infrared sensors. The sensors track whether or not a room is being used. If no one occupies the room, air conditioning and heating loads are not initiated. This further decreases energy usage at the casino. The reduction of CO₂ emissions from cars also was a priority. Therefore, Sturges and Richards decided to use fleet hybrid vehicles and diesel automobiles requiring reformulated diesel fuel, and a partnership with the local school district allows the casino to save money with the purchase of bulk fuel.

Pollution prevention through recycling was incorporated within the casino food service division. All employees empty their cups and separate the waste before leaving the cafeteria. Waste materials that can be recycled are placed in individual collection containers. Used cooking oil is recycled and sold for income, while local hog farmers receive the casino's recycled food wastes resell their pork to the Mohegan Sun. The casino also hopes to install a "digester" to generate natural gas from manure, which can be used in the fuel cells to generate electricity.

For more information regarding the Mohegan Sun Casino, readers may contact management at 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard, Uncasville, Connecticut, 06382, 888-226-7711. To share your Tribe's pollution prevention success story, readers may contact Mary Lauterbach, EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7408M), Washington, DC 20460, 202-564-8821 or lauterbach.mary@epa.gov.



Onjiakiing-From the Earth, Non-Medicinal Uses of Plants

Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances

Michelle Humphrey

OPPTS Tribal News strives to promote a two-way dialogue between EPA and the American Indian Tribes. In keeping with that goal, OPPTS would like to highlight the CD-ROM *Onjiakiing-From the Earth, Non-Medicinal Uses of Plants*, produced by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

“Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents; it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors; we borrow it from our Children.”

(Ancient Indian Proverb)

“Treating the Earth well...” is a basic principle for environmental protection.

Problems with the environment and the information telling us what is wrong can be overwhelming at times. GLIFWC sent OPPTS this special CD-ROM that takes an alternative approach to communicating negative issues of the environment. The CD-ROM is a moving compilation, concerned with wild plants in the ceded territories of the Great Lakes region and provides detailed descriptions of the threats to the plants, by way of Tribal elders, as well as evidence from scientific studies.

Besides results from scientific studies of the threats to the plant life in the Great Lakes region, GLIFWC

also has provided a detailed listing of threatened plants and their uses. GLIFWC also included interview transcripts, recipes, and traditional stories that stress the value of these threatened plants.

Men and women shared family stories of plant use—everything from Dandelion recipes to dyes. Mildred Ackley McGeshick, a Mole Lake elder, shared a story of her mother's dye recipe. “She mixed colors and added apple juice and she would get old dandelion wine from neighbors that had turned to vinegar, add that, so the color stayed. She collected all year round bark, weegup, and cedar. She soaked the weegup in hot water and then put it in the dye, it was also hot, then dried it. She rolled it or wrapped it. My dad would cut the cedar sticks. They always were looking for more supplies. She in later years, when she had money she would buy rit dye. But when you don't have a car and no money, she said in mother earth you had everything you needed. She would peel the weegup and dried it and when she needed it would soak it. My mother was artistic, she made a lot of crafts, canoes, teepees, beadwork, etc.”

Sylvia Cloud told a story of her grandmother. “When we would go camping, we camped out at the sloughs and we camped out at the sugar bush and all that when I was a kid. My Gramma always picked the teas you know, late summer and that. She always had mint. And when we

camped out she always put that mint around...you know where we'd sleep and that. And ah, the bugs don't like the mint and ah, my mother didn't have any mint and one time she went and got some Doublemint gum and

put that all over the ground so the ants don't come in [laughing].

She put that all around so it worked. That was what they used to keep the bugs out.”

This CD-ROM provides an alternative to conventional education. It is a way to pass on the acknowledgment of the threats and reasons for bringing attention to this subject.

For more information, please contact the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission at P.O. Box 9, 100 Maple Street, Odanah, Wisconsin, 54861, 715 682-6619, www.glifwc.org.



Tribal Wind Power – A Viable Strategy for Community Revitalization and Capacity

Office of Environmental Justice
Daniel Gogal

To promote sustainable economic development in Indian country, the Federal Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Environmental Justice chose the “Tribal Wind Power” project as one of its 2003 Revitalization Demonstration Projects. Over the past ten years, a confederation of Tribes in the Northern Great Plains brought a visionary plan to harness wind energy for Tribal economic development from a dream to reality. The InterTribal Council on Utility Policy (ICUP), the confederation of federally recognized Tribes in the Northern Great Plains, has completed the unprecedented installation of a 750 kW-wind turbine. Through partnerships with federal agencies, ICUP seeks to demonstrate that the development of wind energy can be a viable strategy to provide for future economic, cultural, and community revitalization through the development of sustainable Tribal economies. By promoting renewable energy generation to federal and private markets within and beyond the region, the project also helps meet the Nation’s need for renewable, clean, and environmentally safe energy sources. As President George Bush stated in Executive Order 13212, “... the increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of all American people.”

The wind turbine will be owned and operated by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Additional information on the project can be found at www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/iwg_2003_demo_projects.pdf. For more information, please contact Daniel Gogal at 202-564-2576 or gogal.daniel@epa.gov.



The Indian Program Policy Council, Senior Management at EPA Steps Up to the Continuing Challenge

American Indian Environmental Office
Marlene Regelski-Reddoor

At the request of Bill Muszynski, former EPA Region 2 Deputy Administrator, a memo was sent in March 2003 convening the Indian Program Policy Council (IPPC)¹. The memo, signed by Tracy Mehan, Assistant Administrator for Water, and Jane M. Kenny, EPA Region 2 Administrator, highlighted the importance of having a senior leadership forum to discuss agency-wide issues in Indian country.

MISSION

The mission of the IPPC is to advise and support the Agency on major policy, science, and implementation issues affecting EPA programs and activities in order to enhance protection of the environment and human health in Indian country.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the IPPC is to ensure early and effective involvement of EPA senior management in the identification and resolution of Agency-wide Indian program policy issues:

- To create a common understanding of tribal activities and issues among EPA programs offices and Regions
- To serve as a forum for discussing Agency-wide issues affecting Indian country
- To strengthen intra-Agency coordination and promote cohesive, consistent programmatic support regarding tribal activities
- To promote multi-media, multi-office solutions to environmental problems in Indian country
- To discuss inter-Agency issues of concern and promote inter-Agency coordination and solutions to environmental problems in Indian country
- To address specific issues identified by the IPPC members
- To provide for Agency-wide consideration of environmental problems in Indian country, development of an integrated approach to address

these problems, and oversight of the implementation of a long-term, integrated Indian program plan.

STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

The IPPC is composed of two groups, the Council and a Steering Committee. The Council consists of Agency senior management representatives to the EPA National Tribal Operations Committee, excluding the Administrator and Deputy Administrator. The Council is co-chaired by TOC representatives from the Office of Water and the Deputy Regional Administrator of the Lead Region for the EPA Indian Program.

The Council created a Steering Committee, which consists of one representative of each member of the Council. These representatives are selected by the Council members to represent and speak on behalf of a Council member’s Office. The Steering Committee is chaired by the American Indian Environmental Office Director. The Steering Committee will:

- Identify cross-program, cross-media policy issues of major concern to EPA Headquarters, Regions, and other federal agencies
- Elevate issues to the full Council
- Develop agendas and ensure development of meeting materials for Council meetings
- Communicate IPPC activities and decisions to EPA program offices and Regions
- Monitor the status of Council decisions and report back to the Council
- Recommend when additional Council meetings may be necessary.

MEETINGS

The IPPC had one organizing meeting, and a second meeting is planned to discuss its priorities over the next year. The goal is to have the IPPC meet at least quarterly, or more often if necessary or at the request of the Steering Committee.

¹Announcing Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2004

Consultation on Properties of Religious and Cultural Significance to Tribes

Office of Environmental Justice
Daniel Gogal

The protection of Tribal cultural resources and sacred places is a primary concern of many Native Americans. In order to enhance the protection of these resources and places, the Federal Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Environmental Justice is working to assist federal agencies and other interested parties in identifying Indian Tribes that must be consulted prior to federal undertakings which may impact Tribal historic or cultural properties. These historic properties tend to have religious and cultural significance to the Tribes.

The IWG is conducting this work through the leadership of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), a federal agency responsible for overseeing the implementation of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The project is one of

the IWG's demonstration projects that promote interagency collaboration and coordination to more effectively provide for healthy and sustainable communities.

The pilot project involves Tribes in Colorado, New Mexico, and Louisiana. ACHP is seeking funding from various agencies to expand the project to include more Tribes. For additional information, contact Daniel Gogal, Co-Chair of IWG's Native American Task Force, EPA, Office of Environmental Justice, at 202-564-2576 or gogal.danny@epa.gov. Readers also may visit <http://216.87.89.238/ACHP> or www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/interagency/index.html.

New Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants Program Established

Office of Environmental Justice
Daniel Gogal

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants Program (CPS) was established in 2003 to provide financial assistance to eligible community-based organizations working to address local environmental and/or public health concerns. The grants program is based on EPA's *Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-solving Model*. The model was developed with the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice. A report on the model can be found at www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/iwg-status-02042002.pdf.

Only community-based, non-profit, non-governmental organizations located in the same vicinity as the project are eligible to apply for a grant. Grant awards will total \$100,000 each and should be used over a three-year period. Grant awardees from the first set of applications, which were due September 30, 2003, will be announced by January 2004. OEJ is hopeful that program funding will be available again in fiscal year 2004. Additional information on the grants program can be found at www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-cps-grants.html.

New Publications Available at EPA's Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The agricultural community depends on EPA's Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center (AgCenter) for up-to-date information on environmental regulations affecting their industry. Currently, the AgCenter has made available new EPA publications for the livestock agriculture sectors, including the beef, poultry, swine, and dairy sectors. The four, new environmental stewardship brochures focus on best environmental management practices for these livestock sectors. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/agriculture or contact the AgCenter at 888-663-2155 or agcenter@epa.gov.



EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

EPA announces new Compliance Assistance Centers for small- and medium-sized businesses in the auto recycling and construction sectors. These new centers, the Environmental Compliance Automotive Recyclers Center (ECARcenter) and Construction Industry Compliance Assistance Center (CICAceneter) help customers increase their understanding and compliance with environmental regulations.

The ECARcenter provides information on related, state and federal environmental rules for auto recycling facilities, as well as a virtual tour covering topics that range from handling used antifreeze to wastewater disposal.

The CICAceneter allows builders and developers access to applicable environmental regulations and to compliance resources.

For more information on these new centers and others, visit www.assistancecenters.net or any of the highlighted web sites:

- *Border Center*, www.bordercenter.org, for businesses importing hazardous waste across the U.S. - Mexico Border
- *Construction Industry Compliance Assistance Center*, www.cicacenter.org, for contractors and builders/developers
- *CCAR-GreenLink*, www.ccar-greenlink.org, for the auto service and repair community
- *ChemAlliance*, www.chemalliance.org, for chemical manufacturers
- *Environmental Compliance for Automotive Recyclers*, www.ECARcenter.org, for automotive recyclers
- *Local Government Environmental Assistance Network*, www.lgean.org, for local government officials
- *National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center*, www.epa.gov/agriculture, for the agricultural community
- *National Metal Finishing Resource Center*, www.nmfrc.org, for the metal finishing industry
- *Paints and Coatings Resource Center*, www.paintcenter.org, for organic coating facilities
- *Printed Wiring Board Resource Center*, www.pwbrc.org, for printed wiring board manufacturers
- *Printers National Environmental Assistance Center*, www.pneac.org, for the printing industry
- *Transportation Environmental Resource Center*, www.transource.org, for the air, shipping, barging, rail and trucking industries
- *FedSite*, www.epa.gov/fedsite, for federal departments and agencies

LGEAN Publishes New Fact Sheets

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN) has recently published three new fact sheets on local government environmental liability relating to air quality, solid waste, and wastewater. The fact sheets highlight environmental violations that may

result in fines, criminal penalties, and litigation.

For more information, visit www.lgean.org or contact LGEAN at 877-TO-LGEAN or lgean@icma.org.

Announcing Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2004

EPA announces that the Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program is now soliciting pre-proposals for the Program. The Exchange Network is an Internet and standards-based information systems network among EPA and its partners in States, Tribes, and territories. It is designed to help integrate information, provide secure real-time access to environmental information, and support the electronic storage and collection of high-quality data and information. The Exchange Network provides a more efficient way of exchanging environmental information at all levels of government and with the public. It revolutionizes the way in which information is sent to and received by EPA and its State, Tribal, and territorial partners. For examples of projects that EPA has funded in the past, please see the State and Tribal summaries of proposals that are available on the Exchange Network Grant Program Web site at www.epa.gov/Networkg.

Pre-proposals must be received electronically at neengprg@epamail.epa.gov no later than February 3, 2004.



Protecting U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico Border Regions

Office of International Affairs, Western Hemisphere
Pete Christich

The U.S. border with Canada is approximately 5,500 miles, and the U.S. border with Mexico is approximately 2,000 miles. Many Tribes live along these two long U.S. borders within watersheds and airsheds which require multi-year bi-national cooperation to help ensure that human health and ecosystems are adequately protected. The federal governments of Canada, the U.S., and Mexico carry out bi-national co-leadership and partnership roles and responsibilities to help ensure that border regions are protected.

Along both U.S. borders, many international efforts – including a great amount of regional and local transborder cooperation – monitor and assess conditions, and prevent, as well as control, air, water, waste, and other pollution to ensure that human health, wildlife, and their habitats are protected. In a number of U.S. border regions, remediation of historic pollution areas (e.g., contaminated land or toxic sediment in waterways) has been completed or is near completion to restore impaired and adversely impacted environmental conditions. This article highlights human health and ecosystems protection challenges, goals, and unfinished agendas of Tribes and EPA, as shared with others in U.S. international border regions.

A number of major bi-national environmental agreements between Canada and the U.S. and between Mexico and the U.S. serve as important frameworks to help protect

people and ecosystems in U.S. border regions. Many of these major bi-national agreements are fulfilled and assisted by use of regional agreements and frameworks, which may include a partnership among federal, provincial, state, Tribal, and First Nation agencies. A substantial amount of binational cooperation to fulfill binational agreements and goals on shared watersheds includes involvement and assistance of the U.S.-Canada International Joint Commission (IJC). These bi-national agreements, frameworks, and efforts along both U.S. borders cover many worthy unfinished agendas which include many health and ecosystem protection goals.

Binational Environmental Agreements

Major U.S.-Canada agreements covering health and environmental protection along the border include the 1990 Boundary Waters Treaty, 1991 Air Quality Agreement, 1986 Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste, 1994 Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan, and 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, as amended in 1987. The IJC carries out major responsibilities assisting the two countries with the Boundary Waters Treaty, Air Quality Agreement, and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

A major U.S.-Mexico border agreement, known as the 1983 La Paz Agreement, covers air, water, waste pollution control, and emergency preparedness and

response along the border. Also, the two countries are assisted by the U.S.-Mexico International Boundary and Water Commission, the Bi-national Environment Cooperation Commission, and the North American Development Bank.

Requirements, Goals, and Unfinished Agendas Along the U.S.-Canada Border

The U.S.-Canada inland border of 5,500 miles includes many bi-national watersheds, U.S. Tribal reservations and nations, and Canadian First Nations. Along this extensive border, a great amount of environmental protection work remains to be completed to help ensure that indigenous people, their lands, and their waters are protected.

For over 90 years, the U.S.-Canada Boundary Waters Treaty has been in place for the purpose of preventing and controlling water pollution to prevent harm to people and the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of boundary waters, including protection of migratory fisheries. This Treaty is intended to influence the development and use of holistic and integrated approaches to address boundary water flows, levels, quantities, and water quality concerns and goals, including the protection of aquatic wildlife and their habitats.

In 1998, the U.S. and Canadian governments asked their International Joint Commission to help the two countries explore, develop, and implement new and improved IJC bi-national approaches to achieve more holistic management and protection of U.S.-Canada watershed's ecosystems. This long-term 1998 Canada-U.S.-IJC Treaty initiative includes goals to improve cooperation and strengthen partnerships with U.S. Tribes, First Nations, and Tribal nations and alliances that span the border.



The Boundary Waters Treaty focuses on the following issues and challenges among EPA and Tribes.

- An IJC watershed board, which helps implement the above 1998 Canada-U.S.-IJC Treaty initiative, is underway for the New Brunswick-Maine St. Croix River watershed. During 2003, EPA and the Passamaquoddy Tribe developed new work on non-point sources of water pollution and on alewives research in the St. Croix River watershed.
- Federal, provincial, state, Tribal, and First Nation governments are working together in long-term efforts through program work of the Binational Executive Committee of the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Waters Quality Agreement (GLWQA). Significant public and private sector efforts are dedicated to the reduction and elimination of persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) pollution discharges in the Great Lakes-upper St. Lawrence River Basin ecosystem, including efforts to reduce various PBT concentrations in fish. Tribes involved include the St. Regis

Mohawk Nation, Chippewa, and Menominee.

- There are several important EPA issues related to the Upper Columbia River. EPA is conducting an investigation of hazardous substance contamination at the Upper Columbia River site in northeast Washington. Throughout the investigation process, EPA has kept the Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe, local communities, state of Washington, Canadian federal and provincial governments, and others informed of EPA activities.

There is environmental damage in the upper reaches of the Columbia River, and EPA is concerned about the possible effects of contamination to human health and the environment. EPA has determined that a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) of the Upper Columbia River site is necessary. The RI/FS will evaluate the effects of contamination on human health and the environment, as well as determine if any cleanup action

is necessary. Other projects on the Upper Columbia River include EPA's work with the government of Canada to monitor and address temperature, dissolved gas, and other water quality concerns, particularly those related to dam management. This work helps protect human and ecological health, including the health of migrating fish such as salmon and white sturgeon. EPA will continue to keep the Tribes, local communities, governments, and others informed of its activities at the Upper Columbia River site.

- Binational cooperation on Puget Sound-Georgia Basin ecosystem protection includes U.S. Tribes, First Nations, federal, provincial, state, and local agencies, and others in the public and private sectors. Regional cooperation to protect this Basin's ecosystem includes addressing expected population growth, contaminants in wildlife, regional management and planning to control air pollution, waste management, water pollution control, and other issues.
- Since the mid 1990s, EPA, Department of Interior, Department of State, State of Alaska, Canadian federal and British Columbia agencies, U.S. Tlingit Tribes/ Douglas Indian Association, Taku River Tlingit First Nation have been engaged in the review and assessment of proposed mining development in the Alaska-British Columbia Taku River watershed. This bi-national watershed includes hundreds of thousands of migratory salmon and wilderness along the River and its tributaries, as well as a Taku Tlingit traditional trail, all requiring long-term environmental protection. On the U.S. side, the Department of State, EPA, Department of Interior (DOI),

State of Alaska, and the Douglas Indian Association (DIA) have partnered and coordinated with Canadian counterparts on Taku River environment and development issues on behalf of U.S. Taku Tlingit Tribes. One Taku River issue of concern is heavy metals flowing from Canada into the U.S.

- Since 1997, a number of U.S. Tribes and First Nations together have helped the U.S. and Canada fulfill the Boundary Waters Treaty in the Yukon River watershed through work of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council. This Council is an excellent example of how Tribal and First Nation governments can work together to carry out efforts without waiting for other governmental jurisdictions to take the lead. EPA has considered supporting the development of an IJC watershed board approach for the Yukon River.
- In response to concerns of the Chippewa Tribes in upper Michigan regarding emissions from the Algoma Steel Mill in Ontario, Canadian and U.S. federal, state, and provincial agencies, along with the Inter Tribal Council in Michigan and Algoma Steel company met in October 2001. During that meeting, officials discussed the emissions that crossed over the U.S.-Canada border and initiated bi-national cooperation to gather air emissions and monitoring data and assessments in response to the Chippewa's concerns about protecting human health. This cooperation helps fulfill the U.S.-Canada Air Quality Agreement's requirements about cross-border notification, consultation, cooperation, assessment, and, as needed, mitigation of air pollution sources of concern along the border.

Requirements, Goals, and Unfinished Agendas Along the U.S.-Mexico Border

The U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program's Border 2012 Mission Statement promotes partnership among federal, state, Tribal, and local governments in the United States and Mexico to protect the environment and public health in the U.S.-Mexico border region, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Along the U.S.-Mexico border, EPA shares challenges and goals with Tribes, including:

- Studies on ground-level ozone and air particulates in Texas with the Kikapoo Tribe.
- Ground-level ozone, air particulates, and water quantity concerns in the Rio Grande River in Texas with the Isleta Del Sol Tribe.
- Water quantity concerns in a bi-national aquifer, drinking water needs, waste management, air quality protection, hazardous materials preparedness, and as needed, response to incidents, in Arizona with the Tohono O'Odham Nation, which spans the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Studies on air particulates in Arizona with the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe.
- Water quality and quantity concerns in the Colorado River delta, as well as other pollution control concerns in Arizona with the Cocopah, Quechan, and Torres Martinez Tribes.

Along the U.S.-Mexico border, many other U.S. Tribes and indigenous people in Mexico are involved in unfinished agenda efforts to ensure adequate supplies of safe drinking water and waste water treatment and collection services.

Summary Points

As the public and private sectors look back over many decades of environmental challenges and pollution control milestones achieved in U.S. border regions, historical facts indicate that many indigenous people and Tribes have lived in U.S. border regions for centuries during times when border watersheds and border ecosystems once thrived. Today, many no longer do so, and the traditions and wisdom of the Tribes and First Nations can continue to help increase awareness, educate, and lead North America toward sustainable development.

It will be very helpful if readers of this article recommend specific topics about Tribal issues in U.S. border regions that could be reported in futures issues of this EPA newsletter, as well as those that could be discussed in special meetings and teleconferences. If you have recommendations or questions regarding U.S. border issues, please contact Pete Christich, EPA, at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC2650R), Washington, DC 20460, 202-564-6404, or christich.pete@epa.gov.

A Look at OSWER's Tribal Waste Journal

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response



May 2002 marked the first publication of EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) *Tribal Waste Journal* (TWJ). The annual release of the news journal features a different topic and presents related ideas, approaches, and activities successfully employed by Tribes and villages. Each edition showcases "The Tribal Voice," an activity-packed "Kids Page," and a section of topic-related "Resources" and "Contacts." Since premiering its May 2002 publication, OSWER has focused on (1) preventing illegal dumping and (2) transfer stations. Some highlights of related stories are featured below. If readers have questions regarding OSWER's TWJ, please contact Janice Johnson, EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (5306W), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC, 20460, johnson.janice@epa.gov, or visit www.epa.gov/Tribalmsw.

Tribal Waste Journal, May 2002

The May 2002 edition focused on illegal dumping within Indian country. News and informational articles summarized cleanup initiatives and prevention programs related to this topic. Several reservations shared success stories of alternative waste disposal programs, partnering for success, and multi-faceted clean up programs. TWJ also highlighted the San Carlos Apache reservation for their work in collecting unwanted and abandoned cars and white goods and selling the scraps to a local scrap metal vendor. The edition also targeted articles on community outreach and involvement, enforcement programs,

and program assessment strategies, all related to the prevention of illegal waste dumping.

In May 2002, OSWER also published an interview with a Tribal Voice, Judy Pratt-Shelly, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and her mother Grace Deragon. Pratt-Shelly is the Treaty and Natural Resources Division Chief and Executive Environmental Programs Director for the Tribe. Deragon is a Tribal elder. Pratt-Shelly and her mother shared their experience with the environmental concerns regarding household waste and illegal dumping within their community.

Tribal Waste Journal, May 2003

The May 2003 edition focused on transfer stations. This edition showcased a step-by-step guide for creating a waste transfer station, including developing a solid waste management plan, conducting a waste assessment, conducting site visits, performing a feasibility study, and operation and maintenance. TWJ's May 2003 edition also targeted articles on community involvement, the need for Tribal councils, and funding opportunities. The edition also highlighted seven operating Tribal waste transfer stations. Again, OSWER published an interview with a Tribal Voice, Kim Clausen-Jenson, Oglala Sioux Environmental Protection Program Director. Clausen-Jenson promoted her reservation's landfill and funding through partnerships with government agencies to support their station's project.

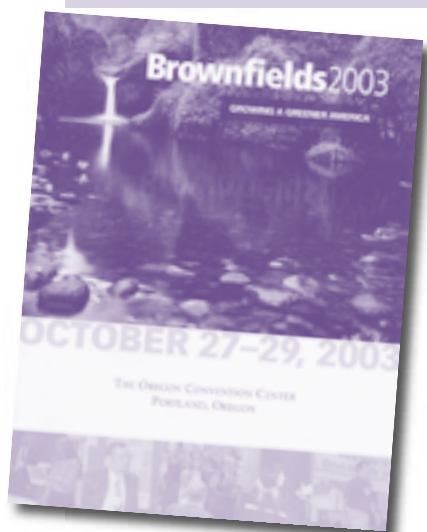
Brownfields 2003, Growing a Greener America

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Revitalization

The Brownfields 2003 Conference, Growing a Greener America, took place on October 27-29, 2003 in Portland, Oregon. At the Oregon Convention Center, over 4,100 experts, practitioners, and other stakeholders participated in a three-day conference program, which included educational sessions, mobile workshops, general sessions, a town meeting plenary, exhibits, and receptions. Mobile workshops offered a unique venue for examining successful brownfields projects in and nearby Portland. At the town meeting plenary, participants were encouraged to ask experts questions related to brownfields projects. The Phoenix Awards Ceremony was also part of the agenda, where winning project participants were honored and recognized for excellence in brownfields redevelopment. The conference brought together key experts from all levels of government, business, finance, and local communities to share ideas and experiences in the fields of urban and environmental redevelopment.

A Native American Gathering took place the day before the conference where Tribal representatives had the opportunity to meet with EPA officials to specifically discuss brownfields-related issues of Tribal interest.

More details on this conference and its resulting success can be obtained from www.brownfields2003.org, and will be featured in the next OPPTS Tribal News issue, due Spring 2004. Brownfields 2004 Conference is scheduled to take place in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 20-22, 2004.



Kids' Page

NTEC and EPA Announce Winners of the *OPPTS Tribal News* "A Design the Kid's Page Contest"

On October 31, 2003, the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) and EPA collected the final entries from children in grades K-12 for the *OPPTS Tribal News* "A Design the

Kid's Page Contest." The contest began in Spring 2003 and was extended until October because of the great number of interested participants. Over 80 students participated in the contest.

These intelligent students displayed creativity and thoughtfulness as they depicted environmental awareness of their indigenous communities in the form of an activity or drawing for the Kid's Page, which is featured regularly in *OPPTS Tribal News*.

Kid's Page designs of the top three winners are featured on the following pages. The Grand Prize Winner, Michael Wassily, is a 7th grader at Clarks Point School, Clarks Point, Alaska. Michael's Kid's Page design, "Puzzle Code," features a coded message and the subsistence life of the Alaskan community. Congratulations Michael on your award and prizes. What a wonderful, detailed design!

**"Puzzle Code," Michael Wassily,
Grand Prize Winner**

